

SULGRAVE,

BANBURY.

2<sup>nd</sup>  
February, 1906.

To the Members of the Middleton Cheney Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my third Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition, Public Health, and other matters connected with the Middleton Cheney Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1905.

I regret that I am still unable to report favourably on either the Population of the District or the Housing of the Working Classes. The District being a purely Agricultural one the population has and must necessarily decrease, although as far as I can judge this has not been in the past year so extensive as formerly. At the same time I am unable to observe any improvements in the homes of the working classes, which, in the majority of cases, are poor, antiquated, devoid of conveniences, and in many cases in a bad state of repair. I am not, however, aware that there are any occupied homes actually unfit for habitation, neither have any been declared permanently so during the past year. Generally speaking, there is a sufficiency of open space around them, and there have been no cases of overcrowding reported in the District.

No new houses have been erected in the District, although in a few there have been structural alterations.

Concerning the disposal of Sewage and Refuse, together with that of Excrement, I have nothing further to add to my last Annual Report, and can only report that there is no regular Sewage system, and that House Refuse is disposed of on the Land and Gardens and Excrement in covered-in Ashpits and Privy Vaults.

A new Sewer has, however, been laid at Middleton Cheney; and others at Aston-le-Walls, Chipping Warden, and Upper Boddington have been repaired. Considering the dry season, the Water Supply has been on the whole good.

At the end of September it was feared that the Supply at Lower Boddington was failing, but, on opening up the Drains which fed the Supply Tank, it was found they were choked with roots. When this obstruction was removed there proved to be an ample supply.

Public Slaughter-houses and public Bakehouses have been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Two Nuisances have been dealt with by the Inspector connected with the former, which have been remedied. Sources of Milk supply are, on the whole, well kept, and there are no Factories or offensive Trades carried on in the District.

Sixty-two cases of Nuisances have been dealt with during the past year, which number was made up as follows:—Defective and untrapped Drains, 16; defective Water Supply, 9; foul and defective Privies, 18; accumulation of Ashes and Manure, 12; Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance, 3; Nuisances relating to Slaughter-houses, 2; insufficient Privy accommodation, 3.

It has not been found necessary to take proceedings for the abatement of any Nuisance, and I understand that the above have or will be remedied.

Three cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported in the District during the past year. Two of these in the village of Middleton Cheney and the other in Chacombe parish.

The School at Upper Boddington was closed at the commencement of the year owing to an epidemic of Whooping Cough in the parishes of Upper and Lower Boddington, also the School at Chipping Warden for the same cause in December. In this District there is no method of dealing with Infectious Diseases. There is no Isolation Hospital, neither is there any provision made for the disinfection of infected clothing.

Fifty-four Births have been registered in the District during the past year—eighteen males and thirty-six females.

Nineteen Births were registered at Middleton Cheney, none at Chipping Warden, eight at Chacombe, five at Overthorpe and Upper Boddington respectively, three at Warkworth, two at Appletree, and one each at Edgcote, Aston-le-Walls, and Lower Boddington.

This is a decrease of sixteen on the previous year, and gives a birth-rate of 22.369 per 1,000.

Thirty Deaths have been registered during the past year, being a decrease of ten on the previous year:—Fifteen occurred at Middleton Cheney, five at Upper Boddington, four at Chacombe, two at Chipping Warden, and one each at the following places respectively, viz., Edgcote, Aston-le-Walls, Overthorpe, and Lower Boddington.

This mortality gives a death-rate of 12.427 for all ages, and for children under one year a rate per 1,000 births registered of 74.074. Four deaths occurred under one year, three deaths between one year and five years, two deaths between five years and under fifteen years, six deaths between twenty-five years and under sixty-five years, and fifteen deaths between sixty-five years and upwards. Six deaths were due to heart disease, three to cancer, two each to the following causes, viz., enteritis, phthisis, other diseases of the respiratory organs, and premature birth, and one respectively owing to bronchitis, pneumonia, accident, and suicide. There were also nine deaths due to old age and other causes.

There has been a satisfactory decrease, considering the birth-rate of infant mortality during the past year. The general birth-rate, however, is decreasing year by year in accordance with the population, although this is somewhat compensated by the somewhat decreasing death-rate.

The District, however, continues to maintain a healthy condition, and has been singularly free from Epidemic Disease since my last Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. B. H. L. S.  
Medical Officer of Health.

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